<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (original) An encoding method applied to an input video sequence corresponding to successive scenes subdivided into successive video object planes (VOPs) and generating, for coding all the video objects of said scenes, a coded bitstream constituted of encoded video data in which each data item is described by means of a bitstream syntax allowing to recognize and decode all the elements of the content of said bitstream, said content being described in terms of separate channels, said method being further characterized in that said syntax comprises an additional syntactic information provided for describing independently, at the image level, in said coded generated bitstream, the type of temporal prediction of the various channels, said predictions being chosen within a list that comprises the following situations :

    - the temporal prediction is formed by directly applying the motion field sent by the encoder on one or more reference pictures ;

    - the temporal prediction is a copy of a reference image ;

    - the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the motion field ;

    - the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the current motion field and further refined by the motion field sent by the encoder.

2. (original) An encoding method according to claim 1, characterized in that said additional syntactic information consists of a syntactic element whose meaning is specific for each present channel.

3. (original) An encoding method according to claim 1, characterized in that said additional syntactic information is a syntactic element whose meaning is shared by all existing channels.

4. (currently amended) An encoding device processing an input video sequence that corresponds to successive scenes subdivided into successive video object planes (VOPs) and generating, for coding all the video objects of said scenes, a coded bitstream constituted of encoded video data in which each data item is described by means of a bitstream syntax allowing to recognize and decode all the elements of the content of said bitstream, said content being described in terms of separate channels, said encoding device being provided for carrying out the encoding method according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1.

5. (original) A transmittable video signal consisting of a coded bitstream generated by an encoding device processing an input video sequence that corresponds to successive scenes subdivided into

successive video object planes (VOPs) and generating, for coding all the video objects of said scenes, a coded bitstream constituted of encoded video data in which each data item is described by means of a bitstream syntax allowing to recognize and decode all the elements of the content of said bitstream, said content being described in terms of separate channels, said transmittable video signal moreover including an additional syntactic information provided for describing independently, at the image level, in said coded generated bitstream, the type of temporal prediction of the various channels, said predictions being chosen within a list that comprises the following situations :

- the temporal prediction is formed by directly applying the motion field sent by the encoder on one or more reference pictures ;

- the temporal prediction is a copy of a reference image ;

- the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the motion field ;

- the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the current motion field and further refined by the motion field sent by the encoder.

6. (original) A method for decoding a transmittable video signal consisting of a coded bitstream generated by an encoding device processing an input video sequence that corresponds to successive scenes subdivided into successive video object planes (VOPs) and

generating, for coding all the video objects of said scenes, a coded bitstream constituted of encoded video data in which each data item is described by means of a bitstream syntax allowing to recognize and decode all the elements of the content of said bitstream, said content being described in terms of separate channels, said transmittable video signal including an additional syntactic information provided for describing independently, at the image level, in said coded generated bitstream, the type of temporal prediction of the various channels, said predictions being chosen within a list comprising the following situations :

- the temporal prediction is formed by directly applying the motion field sent by the encoder on one or more reference pictures ;

- the temporal prediction is a copy of a reference image ;

- the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the motion field ;

- the temporal prediction is formed by the temporal interpolation of the current motion field and further refined by the motion field sent by the encoder.

7. (original) A decoding device for carrying out a decoding method according to claim 6.